

Q Fever

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A bacterial disease that may present with acute or chronic manifestations. Acute cases may have sudden onset with chills, retrobulbar headache, weakness, malaise and severe sweats. Acute cases may develop atypical pneumonia, meningoencephalitis or acute hepatitis. Endocarditis is more commonly found in chronic Q fever.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis initially; laboratory confirmation required to meet case definition.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Fourfold or greater change in antibody titer to *C. burnetii* phase II or phase I antigen in paired serum specimens ideally taken 3-6 weeks apart, **OR**
 - Isolation of *Coxiella burnetii* from a clinical specimen by culture, **OR**
 - Demonstration of *C. burnetii* in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A case that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION: REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours (**Potential Bioterrorism Agent**). If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning:
1-888-973-7678.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
 2. Q Fever Case Report –CDC 55.1 (03/2002)
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Investigation of contacts and source of infection: Search for history of contact with sheep, cattle, or goats on farms or research facilities, parturient cats, consumption of raw milk, or association with a laboratory that handles *C. burnetii*.
 - Educate persons in high risk occupations (sheep and dairy farmers, veterinary researchers, abattoir workers) on sources of infection.

- Educate persons in high risk occupations on the necessity for adequate disinfection (including clothing) and disposal of animal products of conception.
- Restrict access to areas that house potentially infected animals and stress the pasteurization of milk.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DEPARTMENT FOR LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. Q Fever. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 407-411.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. Q Fever. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: 473-475.